

Library.

Urban District Council of Felling

---

Annual Report

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1951

---

WILLIAM D. MILLAR,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durham), D.P.H.

J. WEAR,

M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Sanitary Inspector

---

PELAW-ON-TYNE :  
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works.

1953



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29205700>

Urban District Council of Felling



# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1951



WILLIAM D. MILLAR,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durham), D.P.H.

J. WEAR,

M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H., Sanitary Inspector



PELAW-ON-TYNE :  
Co-operative Wholesale Society's Printing Works.

—  
1953

# CONTENTS

---

	PAGE
Chairmen and Health Committee ....	3
Staff of Health Department ....	4
Preface ....	5
Statistics and Social Conditions ....	6
Vital Statistics ....	8
Summary of Causes of Death ....	9
Treatment at Centres and Clinics ....	10
General Provision of Health Services ....	11
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ....	12
Inspection and Supervision of Food ....	15
Prevention and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases	17
Age, Incidence, Deaths, &c., from Notifiable Infectious Diseases ....	18
Factories Act ....	19
Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1951 ....	20
Sanitary Inspector's Report ....	21

## Urban District Council of Felling

---

*Chairman :*

Councillor A. CUNNINGHAM, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor E. M. FLEMING.

### HEALTH COMMITTEE.

---

*Chairman :*

Councillor A. JOYCE.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor T. P. S. PRUDHAM.

*Members of Health Committee :*

Councillor W. W. BROWN.	Councillor O. C. HENDERSON.
„ W. DORAN.	„ Mrs. W. HUNTER.
„ T. W. ELLIOTT.	„ A. LUMSDEN.
„ E. M. FLEMING.	„ M. MALLOY.
„ Mrs. A. C. GEORGE.	„ F. J. WHEATLEY.

*Clerk of the Council :*

JOHN DONKIN, Solicitor.

## Staff of the Health Department

---

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

WILLIAM D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.

### *Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :*

J. WEAR, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

### *Second Sanitary Inspector :*

J. H. RHODES, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Resigned April.)

W. J. BLACK, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
(Commenced May.)

### *Clerical Staff :*

E. B. MILLER, Clerk.

Miss I. M. WALTON, Typist.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL OFFICES,  
FELLING-ON-TYNE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Felling  
Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The Birth Rate rose this year, being 17·5 compared with 16·73 per 1,000 live births last year.

The Death Rate of 12·06 per 1,000 of the population showed a slight decrease from 1950.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 27·1 per 1,000 live births. This is a decrease from last year's figure of 35·46.

A matter for comment is the high number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during 1951, compared with previous years. The figure of 72 notifications is more than twice the average number for the preceding years since the end of World War II. Two factors seem to be responsible—bad housing and the increased use of case-finding methods, including the Mass X-Ray surveys.

I wish to take this opportunity of recording my grateful appreciation for the assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also from the Staff of the Health Department, and my fellow officials.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. MILLAR, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. (Durh.), D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## SECTION A.

—

### Statistics of the Area

Area of District	....	....	....	....	....	3,405 acres
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1951 according to rate books)	...	....	....	....	....	7,402
Rateable Value (1st April, 1951)			....	....	....	£114,533
Sum represented by a penny rate			....	....	....	£420
Estimated Resident Population (mid-1951)	....			....		25,190



## Extracts from Vital Statistics

### Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ....	435	226	209
Illegitimate ....	7	4	3
	<hr/> 442	<hr/> 230	<hr/> 212

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17·5.

### Still Births—

Legitimate ....	16	10	6
Illegitimate ....	--	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 18·1.

Deaths .... 304 158 146

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12·06

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 30—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	2	4·3
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4·3

### Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	....	27·1
Legitimate Infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births....		27·1
Illegitimate Infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births....		--

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	40
„ Measles (all ages)	....	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	1
„ Diarrhœa	....	1

## Vital Statistics

### *Births.*

The crude birth-rate in 1951 was 17·5. The total number of live births was 442, of which 230 were males and 212 females. The adjusted birth rate was 16·97.

The birth-rate of Felling compared with the rest of the country generally was as follows :—

England and Wales	....	....	....	....	15·5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	....				17·3
148 Smaller Towns	....	....	....	....	16·7
London Administrative County			....	....	17·8
Felling Urban District		....	....	....	16·97

### *Still Births.*

The number of still births in the district was 16, and compared with the country generally was as follows :—

England and Wales	....	....	....	....	0·36
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	....				0·45
148 Smaller Towns	....	....	....	....	0·38
London Administrative County			....	....	0·37
Felling Urban District		....	....	....	1·81

### *Deaths.*

The crude death-rate in 1951 was 12·06, as compared with 12·58 in 1950. The adjusted death-rate was 13·62, and the following figures show the comparison with the rest of the country :—

England and Wales	....	....	....	....	12·5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	....				13·4
148 Smaller Towns	....	....	....	....	12·5
London Administrative County			....	....	13·1
Felling Urban District		....	....	....	13·6

The statistics regarding causes of death, supplied by the Registrar-General, classified according to sex and the 36 divisions of the Registrar-General's Short List of Causes, are set out below.

### Causes of Death in Felling Urban District, 1951.

Causes of Death							Males	Females
ALL CAUSES .. .. .							158	146
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	12	4
2	„ Other	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
3	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
6	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
8	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
11	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	3	0
12	„ „ Breast	..	..	..	..	..	0	4
13	„ „ Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	13	8
15	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	21	31
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	..	..	..	..	..	17	11
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	3	5
20	Other Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	29	29
21	Other Circulatory Disease	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
22	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	11	7
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
31	Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	13	15
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	3	0
34	All other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
35	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	3	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	..	..	..	..	..	0	0

## TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

ADDRESS OF CENTRE	CLINIC	SESSIONS	PROVIDED BY
St. Alban's Villa, Crow Hall Lane, Felling	Ante-natal .. .. Child Welfare .. Ultra-Violet Ray .. Post-natal .. Birth Control ..	Wednesday and Friday Afternoons—Weekly.. Wednesday mornings—Weekly Friday mornings—1st, 3rd, and 5th in month Monday afternoons—Weekly Friday mornings—Weekly Friday mornings—2nd and 4th in month	Durham C.C.
School Clinic, Heworth ..	School Medical and Dental.	Open each day, Monday to Friday— Morning sessions, 9 to 12 Afternoon sessions, 1.30 to 4 Doctor attends Monday mornings and Thurs- day afternoons Dentist attends two full days, Wednesdays and Fridays	Durham C.C.
Greenesfield House, Gateshead .. ..	Tuberculosis Clinic ..	Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 (All Sexes).. ..	Regional Hospital Board
General Hospital, Newcastle..	Venereal Diseases .. ..	Monday to Friday, Consultation and 10 a.m. to 12 noon, treatment, males and 3 to 7 p.m. females Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Regional Hospital Board

**SECTION B.****General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area****Laboratory Facilities**

Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Ambulance Facilities**

Two ambulance depots, one at Washington and the other at Hebburn, serve the urban district of Felling. Ambulances are summoned by telephone.

**Hospital Services**

There are no hospitals within the area. Hospitals outside of the district, which are made use of for the treatment of medical and surgical cases are :—

Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Newcastle General Hospital.

Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walker Gate.

Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Eye Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Children's Hospital, Gateshead.

High Teams Hospital, Gateshead.

Infectious Diseases Hospital, Sheriff Hill.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Sheriff Hill.



## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### 1. (a) *Water Supply.*

The area is supplied with water from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

- (i) The supply to the area on the whole is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Regular examinations were made of the supply.
- (iii) There is little likelihood of plumbo solvent action.
- (iv) No complaint of impure supply was received.
- (v) With the exception of (i) a caravan dwelling situated in a small disused quarry in the south-west part of the area, (ii) a smallholder's cottage situated on high ground in the south part of the area, and (iii) in a Railway Signaller's Cottage near the southern boundary, the area is supplied with water from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

The three dwellings situated on Railway property in an isolated position near Pelaw Station have now been provided with a constant water supply.

#### (b) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

Preparatory work for providing a trunk sewer and sewage disposal works for a large-scale development in the south-east part of the area has been undertaken during the year.

#### 2. *Rivers and Streams.*

The River Tyne is the only large waterway and serves as a common sewer for the many townships along its banks. The other stream running through this district is known as the River Don.

#### 3. (a) *Closet Accommodation.*

There are approximately 7,360 water-closets, 95 ash-closets, and 2 ash-middens in Felling. The number of ash-closets will decrease as further clearance of unfit property takes place.

#### (b) *Public Cleansing.*

Collection and Disposal of Refuse and the Collection of Salvage are carried out by the Health Department.

## REFUSE COLLECTION.

Collection is carried out by mechanical transport. Three C.K.3 10 cubic yard hydraulic tipping refuse vehicles are now in use and a spare vehicle is available when required.

A once-weekly collection of house refuse is maintained throughout the year.

With the development of new housing estates the rate of collection is slowed down, as the present design and layout of estates has meant a considerable increase in the individual bin carry.

During the year, 489,201 bins and 7,718 boxes were emptied, 16,989 miles were travelled, 3,554 gallons of petrol were used, and 3,918 loads were collected.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. A disused clay quarry, situated in the Heworth Low Lanes, is being filled in by this method. The longest haul is approximately two miles. When tipping is completed it is intended that the quarry be developed for recreational facilities.

Several small fires, which were immediately extinguished, occurred during the year. These were due to unlawful disturbance of the tip, and several successful prosecutions were obtained.

## SALVAGE.

Collection of miscellaneous salvage materials is carried on. Kitchen waste is collected separately—the communal bin system is in operation. All kitchen waste collected is taken to the processing plant under the control of the Corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne. During the year, 55 tons 8 cwt. of kitchen waste was collected.

Waste paper collection increased during the year, and a drive was made for waste paper. Approximately  $37\frac{3}{4}$  tons was collected and returned to industry, bringing £450, as compared with  $9\frac{1}{2}$  tons bringing £50 in 1950.

## GULLY EMPTYING AND STREET SWEEPING.

A mechanical gully emptier with a capacity of 500 gallons is in use in the area.

Street sweeping is carried out partly by the gang method and partly by the use of a road sweeper collector.

### *Shops Act.*

One hundred and twenty-nine visits were made during the year.



*Camping Sites.*

1. The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes ..... Nil
2. Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by L.A. under Section 269 P.H. Act, 1936 ..... Nil
3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during 1951 ..... Nil

*Smoke Nuisance.*

Nuisance in this district is sometimes caused by fumes discharged from pitheaps. Two collieries—one situated in the South Ward and one in the East Ward of the district—have each a heap emitting sulphurous fumes when the wind is in a certain direction, and causes discomfort and annoyance to the inhabitants in this and adjoining districts.

Informal action was taken in two cases to abate smoke nuisance at factories, and no further complaint was received.

*Swimming Pools.*

There are no Public Baths or Swimming Pools within the Urban District.

*Eradication of the Bed Bug.*

	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of houses infested ....	7	13

All infested dwellings are sprayed with insecticide containing D.D.T. and/or Gammexane.

No general disinfestation scheme for Council houses and removals to Council houses is in force. On complaint of bug infestation, premises are visited and treatment is carried out.

It has been found that after spraying with insecticide, the liberation of a smoke containing D.D.T. or Gammexane has had very good results.

*Schools.*

The schools in the area are under the control of the County Council of Durham.

*Rodent Control.*

A rodent operator is employed by the Health Department. Treatment of rat and mice infestations and sewer treatments are carried out as prescribed by the methods suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Disinfestation Branch), and a close liaison is maintained with the Divisional Officers.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### (a) Milk Supply

##### MILK

(SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED)

REGULATIONS, 1949.

Five licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Pasteurised," and 45 licences to dealers to use the special designation, "Sterilised," were issued during the year.

#### (b) Meat and other Foods

There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the area. None are in use as all animals are slaughtered at the Government centralised slaughter-houses in Newcastle. One slaughter-house is used as a meat receiving and distribution depot.

Regular visits have been paid to food-preparing premises during the year.

#### UNFIT FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption ; a quantity of the food condemned was used for animal feeding, or returned for reconditioning for manufacturing purposes ; the remainder was destroyed. The following is a list of the foodstuffs surrendered :—

			lbs.	ozs.	
English Calf Carcasses (4)	....	162	0	....	Decomposition.
„ Bovine Head	....	30	0	....	„
„ Hind Quarter Beef	....	26	0	....	Bone Taint.
„ Cooked Pigs' Heads	....	25	0	....	Abnormal Odour.
Irish Pressed Pork	....	15	0	....	Mould Formation.
Flour Mixtures	....	63	12		

*Tinned Goods—*

		Tins		
Ham (Cooked)	....	34	455	0
Tinned Meats (various)	....	88	123	7
Fish	( „ )	23	19	1
Vegetables	( „ )	290	310	9
Fruits	( „ )	154	172	12
Jam	( „ )	3	3	8
Milk	( „ )	82	82	0
Miscellaneous	....	5	3	2

Total weight of foodstuffs surrendered :—

13 cwt., 1 qr., 7 lb.

Four hundred and fifty-five pounds of cooked ham was found to be unfit for consumption. This ham, in the main, was imported from continental countries and it would appear to be due to not sufficient processing and tinning that so much was found unfit. Further, if the storage of such ham had been in refrigerated containers, possibly less would have been found to be unfit.

ICE CREAM.

No. of producers	....	....	....	....	3
No. of premises where ice cream is sold	....				29

Premises are regularly inspected and samples of the products are examined periodically.

## SECTION F.

Prevention and Control over Infectious  
and other Diseases

There were no cases of diphtheria notified, as compared with one last year.

Scarlet fever was of a mild type ; 47 cases occurred, as against 27 in 1950.

The two cases of dysentery were mild in character.

An increase took place in the number of whooping cough cases notified, but the number of cases of measles did not alter materially from the previous year.

One case of acute encephalitis occurred in 1950.

Terminal disinfection is carried out by formalin.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 336 children under 5 years of age and 26 children between the ages of 5 and 15 were immunised ; 236 children were given a reinforcing or booster dose of serum.

## MASS X-RAY UNIT.

The following table gives the attendances at Heworth during the visit of the Unit in October :—

**Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board****Mass Radiography Unit No. 2.****Summary of Examinees X-rayed Felling 1951.**

	Miniature Films.	Large Films.	Referred to Chest Clinic.	For Observation.	Referred Heart Specialist.
Males .....	858	71	8	6	3
Females .....	1,067	45	6	6	4
TOTALS .....	1,925	116	14	12	7

The percentage of men referred to a Chest Clinic and to be kept under observation was 1·6 per cent. This figure was a little higher than the total average for the country but not for the North-East Region. The same figure for the women was 1·1 per cent., which can be regarded as very satisfactory.



Table showing the Age Incidence, Deaths, &c., from Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED (Corrected Figures)										No. Removed to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	Total Cases	0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65		
Smallpox ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ....	47	...	4	15	25	2	1	...	...	...	30	...
Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ....	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia neonatorum ....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ....	35	2	1	...	1	...	2	9	13	7	8	10
Meningococcal Infection ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ....	332	19	87	121	102	2	...	1	...	...	3	...
Whooping Cough ....	221	17	59	87	56	1	...	1	...	...	3	1

### Factories Act, 1937.

#### 1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

PREMISES. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	NUMBER OF	
			Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	9	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	62	103	10	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises) .. ..	1	1	—	—
Total .. ..	72	111	10	—

#### DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred by H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ..	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)—				
Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	8	8	1	—
Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .. ..	8	8	—	—
Total .. ..	17	17	1	—

#### Factories Act, 1937—Section 34.

One Factory was examined for means of escape in case of fire. A Certificate was issued by the District Council stating that the means of escape in case of fire were adequate.

### Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality for 1951.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1     ....     ....	2	2	....	1	....	....	....	....
5     ....     ....	4	5	....	1	....	....	1	....
15    ....    ....	7	13	....	2	....	2	....	1
25    ....    ....	7	3	1	1	2	1	....	1
35    ....    ....	10	1	....	2	3	....	....	....
45    ....    ....	8	2	....	1	3	1	....	....
55    ....    ....	4	1	1	....	3	....	....	....
65    ....    ....	1	2	....	....	1	....	....	....
Totals    ....	43	29	2	8	12	4	1	2

### Tuberculosis

Pulmonary tuberculosis—72 notifications were received, compared with 26 in 1950.

There were 19 deaths, compared with 10 in the previous year.

Non-pulmonary tuberculosis—10 notifications were received, compared with 3 in 1950.

There were 3 deaths, compared with none last year.

No cases of tuberculosis occurred which were not notified.



**APPENDIX.****Sanitary Inspector's Report**

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL BUILDINGS,  
FELLING-ON-TYNE.

*To the Medical Officer of Health.*

SIR,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

**HOUSING.**

The housing position still is serious. Numerous complaints regarding disrepair and overcrowding are received and dealt with, but in a large number of cases the houses are sub-standard in type and repairs are, at best, palliative.

The rehousing of the confirmed Clearance Orders on Dorothy, Dora, and Henry Streets was commenced, and the last tenant was rehoused in November. Forty-six houses involving 157 occupants were dealt with. Work of demolition of the area was in hand at the end of the year.

Twenty-one dwellings were the subject of individual unfit orders during the year, affecting 63 persons. Forty-eight persons from 15 unfit dwellings were rehoused during the year.

**OVERCROWDING.**

The position shows no material change from last year. The Council endeavours, when letting houses, to deal with as many cases as possible by, at times, two and even three-way lets and exchanges.

Without a comprehensive survey of the area being undertaken,

no accurate figures can be produced, but it is comparatively safe to assume that owing to marriages of sons and daughters who are still living in the homes of their parents, overcrowding still remains a most serious problem.

### INFESTATIONS.

The following are details of infestations dealt with during the year. Complaints are often received of beetle infestation, &c., and powders containing D.D.T. or Gammexane are issued on request, and in serious cases the dwellings are treated by the Health Department.

Bed Bugs (including 7 Council Houses) ....	20
Wood Beetles ....	11
Beetles ....	16
Fleas ....	8
Earwigs ....	4
Flies ....	2

There has been an increase in furniture or wood beetle infestations in Council dwellings. Treatment is carried out as described in last year's report, and it is pleasing to note that the infestations have been got under control and treatments carried out have proved satisfactory. A watch has been kept on previous cases and the infestation has shown an improvement, and in two cases a complete clearance has been made.

### RODENT CONTROL.

A Rodent Operator deals with all rat and mouse infestations in the area. Routine visits and inspections are carried out. When an infestation is discovered the area is surveyed and pre-baited—if required, poisoning is carried out. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that post-baiting should be done to determine if the infestation has been completely eradicated.

Seventy-five private dwellings and nine business premises were treated, and seven treatments were carried out on Local Authority premises. A large number of inspections were carried out in addition, but treatments were not required.

Bi-annual treatment of the sewers in the area are carried out in accordance with Ministry methods. It has been observed that areas which, several years ago, showed heavy infestation are now free from infestation. A small build-up of rat infestation occurs in part of the Pelaw district where the sewer outfalls discharge into the River Tyne. This area is kept under close observation and treated as and when required.

#### FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Food preparing premises have been regularly inspected during the year, and the necessary facilities required for observing a high standard of hygiene are being provided.

No organised lectures, &c., have been carried out to the trades concerned on the importance of clean food handling. It has been found that more can be accomplished by personal contact with the personnel concerned than by an organised address.

Lectures on food and food handling have been given to private societies in the area, and from the interest shown and questions asked it would seem that the general public are showing an increasing interest in clean food.

Twelve lectures on food poisoning and kitchen hygiene were given to the three-day course of supervisors and kitchen staffs of the Durham County School Meals Service at Durham in August.

## GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The following are details of notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	PUBLIC HEALTH ACT		HOUSING ACT			
	Notices		Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Main Roofs repaired .. ..	77	46	5	5	8	3
Off-shoot repaired .. ..	54	30	18	14	15	7
Chimneys repaired .. ..	12	2	—	—	3	2
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed.	61	38	17	15	17	9
Rain-water Pipes repaired or renewed .. ..	36	36	3	3	5	3
Soil Pipes repaired .. ..	2	1	—	—	—	—
Pointing repaired .. ..	115	63	12	9	15	7
Brickwork repaired or renewed ..	28	25	—	—	5	2
Ceiling Plaster repaired or renewed.	49	18	1	1	5	1
Wall Plaster repaired or renewed ..	124	72	11	8	9	4
Wood Ceilings repaired or renewed	6	6	—	—	—	—
Window Frames repaired or renewed	19	17	—	—	—	—
Sash Cords renewed .. ..	36	26	9	5	10	2
Scullery Benches repaired or renewed .. ..	8	8	2	2	3	2
Floors repaired .. ..	47	39	7	7	1	—
Doors repaired or renewed ..	59	58	4	3	6	3
Handrails, repaired or provided ..	8	5	3	3	1	1
Woodwork (Miscellaneous) repaired	2	2	7	7	6	6
Ranges repaired or renewed ..	12	16	—	—	—	—
Sinks repaired or renewed ..	2	—	1	1	—	—
„ Waste Pipes repaired or renewed .. ..	20	14	1	—	4	3
Water Service Pipes repaired or renewed .. ..	23	16	—	—	—	—
Sub-floor Ventilation provided ..	13	5	3	1	5	1
Food Stores provided .. ..	2	2	—	—	—	—
Yard Paving repaired or renewed ..	11	7	6	4	5	2
„ Gullies repaired .. ..	5	2	2	—	7	5
„ Drains cleansed .. ..	40	41	—	—	—	—
Set Pots repaired .. ..	6	4	1	1	—	—
W.C. Compartments repaired ..	21	22	—	—	—	—
„ Basins renewed .. ..	5	5	3	2	1	—
„ Seats renewed .. ..	12	9	1	1	2	2
„ Cisterns renewed .. ..	9	8	—	—	4	4
Ash Closets repaired .. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—
Accumulations removed .. ..	2	2	—	—	—	—
Dust Bins renewed .. ..	143	109	—	—	—	—
	1,173	755	117	92	137	69

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WEAR, *Sanitary Inspector.*



